



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Rep. Kind: Prescription for a Healthy Wisconsin

# CHAMP Act: Protects Medicare

### *Fourth in a Series on the Children's Health & Medicare Protection Act of 2007*

**Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)**, member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, today lauded the Children's Health & Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP Act) as a landmark commitment to Medicare beneficiaries. The bill protects Medicare beneficiaries from cuts in benefits or increased premiums, strengthens the solvency of the Medicare program, and is fiscally responsible.

"Under Republican leadership, we saw the greatest expansion of entitlement spending in more than 40 years, with no way to pay for it," Rep. Kind said. "This bill brings fiscal responsibility back to Medicare, while protecting access for seniors and actually strengthening the program for the future."

The CHAMP Act guarantees that seniors and people with disabilities can continue to see their doctors by preventing a scheduled 10 percent cut to physician payments, which would place Medicare beneficiaries' access to doctors at risk. In addition to preventing the cuts, the CHAMP Act provides doctors with an increase in reimbursement payments for the next two years, providing for stability in reimbursement and ensuring patients can continue to see the doctor of their choice. It also rewards efficiency by establishing a new bonus payment for efficient physicians and requires further accountability by giving the Secretary of Health and Human Services additional tools to review and modify misvalued services.

"The CHAMP Act steers Medicare in the right direction – rewarding efficiency, demanding further accountability for taxpayers, and protecting beneficiaries," Rep. Kind said.

The CHAMP Act also promotes fiscal responsibility by equalizing payments to private "Medicare Advantage" (MA) plans and traditional Medicare providers. Right now in the Third Congressional District, MA plans are paid, on average, 26 percent more than traditional Medicare plans, which increases the price of premiums for all beneficiaries. By reducing overpayments to private plans, the CHAMP Act increases Medicare's solvency, protects beneficiaries from higher premiums, and strengthens Medicare's finances for the future.

"While the private sector has an important role to play in Medicare, it must be in a way that increases program efficiency," Rep. Kind said. "We must ensure that Congress is a responsible steward of tax dollars."

The CHAMP Act is supported by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the American Medical Association (AMA), and American Hospital Association (AHA), among others.